



Editorial

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Editor, Hawaii Medical Journal

Hawaii's First Cadaveric Heart Transplant

Alan Cheung MD and his associates present another first for Hawaii: a successful cadaveric heart transplantation. This interesting paper addresses the cultural and ethical issues surrounding organ transplantation.

A prior "first" pertaining to this topic was the Transplantation of Human Organs Program sponsored by the Honolulu Medical Group Research and Education Foundation in 1969. As coordinator for this professional and public symposium, I recall our mainland speakers Robert A. Good MD, Irvine H. Page MD, Thomas E. Starzi MD, and David S. Rubsamen MD, LLB. All were authorities on organ transplantation. This was the year of the first kidney transplant procedure performed in Hawaii.

Of that symposium, Henry Yokoyama MD, Hawaii Medical Journal's News Editor, reported, "One of the best bargains in recent years has been the symposium of human organ transplantation sponsored by the Honolulu Medical Group Research Foundation. For a nominal fee of \$15, we attended two morning sessions and an evening banquet for two at the Ilikai, replete with cocktails."¹

As Cheung and his associates point out, if Hawaii cultivated more organ donation, many more heart, kidney, liver and pancreas transplants could be done here.

Malpractice Risk Assessments Among Different Approaches for Informed Consent

Doctors Lauren Yamamoto and Gaylyn Li, with medical student Rene Sato, review the difficulties in obtaining informed consent using two examples: an obstetrics case and a pediatric emergency room event. This manuscript should be reprinted and distributed by all of the malpractice carriers in Hawaii, because similar problems occur in numerous offices and specialties.

The authors indicate that medical malpractice attorneys choose full disclosure as the option with lesser liability in situations, regardless of the variables particular to an event. They also note an attorney's comment, "if all doctors (gave full disclosure) I wouldn't have much business."

Let's not give them as much business!

Diarrhea-Associated Hospitalizations Among Children in Hawaii

Paul V. Effler MD from the State Department of Health, and his associates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, submit an exhaustive study of 2,288 children admitted to Hawaii hospitals with diarrhea-associated diagnoses. Rotavirus is the most commonly associated pathogen, but is usually not tested in children, because additional costs are incurred without significantly altering the treatment.

During this study of acute care hospitalizations between 1994 and 1997, 11.3% of all hospitalizations for children less than five years of age had a diarrhea-associated diagnosis listed at the time of discharge. In Hawaii it is estimated that 1 in 32 children may be hospitalized by age five. Since suspension of the use of rotavirus vaccines, we should encourage parents and caretakers to use oral rehydration solutions to prevent the development of dehydration in children with diarrhea. As most of us were taught early in medical school, "push the fluids."

1. Yokoyama, H. N. Transplant Symposium, Notes and News. *Haw Med J.* Nov-Dec 1969 and Jan-Feb 1970. Look for Henry's report on the symposium which can be found in next month's News and Notes.

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